

REMARKS

Claims 13-26 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-12 are cancelled and new claims 13-26 are added. Support for the new claims 13-25 may be found at least in the specification on pages 7-10, cancelled claims 1-12 and Figures 2, 3, and 6. Support for new claim 26 may be found at least in Figure 7. No new matter is added by the above amendment. In view of at least the following, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

I. Examiner Interview

The courtesies extended to Applicants' representatives by Examiners Storey and Harold at the interview held November 5, 2007, are appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below and constitute Applicants' record of the interview.

II. Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 2, 5 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 6,982,803 (Eguchi). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

By this Amendment claims 1, 2, 5 and 12 are cancelled. Thus, the rejection as to claims 1, 2, 5 and 12 is moot.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

III. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Office Action rejects claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Eguchi in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,442,457 (Najafi); rejects claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Eguchi in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,956,833 (Yukie); rejects claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Eguchi in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,211,972 (Okutomi); and rejects claims 7-11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Eguchi in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,859,967 (Kaufeld). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

By this Amendment, claims 3, 4 and 6-11 are cancelled. Thus, the rejections as to claims 3, 4 and 6-11 are moot.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

IV. New Claims

By this Amendment, claims 13-26 are added.

A. Independent Claim 13

New independent claim 13 recites, in part, "a converting unit that converts the email into facsimile-forwarding data if the determining unit determines that the facsimile-forwarding is instructed" and "a forwarding control unit that conducts facsimile forwarding of the facsimile-forwarding data converted by the converting unit to a facsimile-forwarding destination specified by the facsimile-forwarding instruction when the facsimile-forwarding data converted by the converting unit does not exceed the upper limit set by the setting unit."

In contrast, Eguchi discloses a facsimile server that "[w]hen the data size of the incoming electronic mail exceeds the receivable size, the facsimile server receives the incoming electronic mail from the electronic mail server by the packet and sends the electronic mail by the packet to a designated address" (abstract). Specifically, Eguchi discloses "[w]hen the data size of the electronic mail which reached the electronic mail server 4 exceeds the image data size which can be stored in the RAM 21, the capacity control unit 32 outputs the effect to a receiving control unit 33, a return/forward information extraction unit 34, and a transmitting control unit 35" (col. 4, lines 18-23). Moreover, "[w]hen the incoming electronic mail can not be received as it is because of excess size, the receiving control unit 33 makes the electronic mail server 4 receive the electronic mail by the packet, and the return/forward information extraction unit 34 creates a return address or a forwarding address" (col. 4, lines 36-41).

Eguchi further discloses the following: "[s]etting the facsimile server 2 for returning or forwarding the error electronic mail enables the facsimile server 2 to extract the electronic mail from the electronic mail server 4 to return or forward the electronic mail, the electronic mail does not remain at the electronic mail server 4. The facsimile server 2 receives the excess size electronic mail by the packet and returns or forwards the electronic mail as it is by the packet, so that it is possible to receive and re-send the electronic mail easily" (col. 5, lines 42-50, *emphasis added*).

Applicants respectfully submit that in Eguchi the facsimile server 2 returns or forwards the electronic mail as is when the data size of the electronic mail exceeds the stored excess size. However, claim 13 includes a converting unit that converts an email into facsimile-forwarding data upon the determination that facsimile-forwarding was instructed. Therefore, the conversion process does not depend on the upper size limit set by the setting unit. Moreover, it is the forwarding control unit that conducts facsimile-forwarding of the converted facsimile-forwarding data when the upper size limit is not exceeded. Therefore, pursuant to claim 13 conversion of the email into facsimile-forwarding data occurs before a determination is made as to whether the upper limit set by the setting unit is exceeded.

For at least the foregoing reasons, claim 13 is patentable over the applied references.

B. Independent Claim 19

New independent claim 19 recites, in part, "a converting unit that converts the email into facsimile-forwarding data when the sender of the email is registered by the registering unit" and " a forwarding control unit that conducts facsimile-forwarding of the facsimile-forwarding data converted by the converting unit to a facsimile-forwarding destination corresponding to the senders registered by the registering unit when the facsimile-forwarding data converted by the converting unit does not exceed the upper limit set by the setting unit."

Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 19 is patentable for at least the reasons discussed above in regard to independent claim 13.

C. Independent Claim 25

New independent claim 25 recites, in part, "a converting unit that converts the email into facsimile-forwarding data when the first determining unit determines that the facsimile-forwarding is instructed or when the second determining unit determines that the sender of the email is registered by the registering unit" and "a forwarding control unit that conducts facsimile-forwarding of the facsimile-forwarding data converted by the converting unit to a facsimile-forwarding destination selected by the selection unit when the facsimile-forwarding data converted by the converting unit does not exceed the upper limit set by the setting unit."

Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 25 is patentable for at least the reasons discussed above in regard to independent claim 13.

In view of the above arguments, Applicants respectfully submit that Eguchi fails to teach, suggest or disclose the subject matter recited in independent claims 13, 19 and 25. Najafi, Yukie, Okutomi and Kaufeld, in any combination, do not teach, disclose or suggest the above features. Thus, Najafi, Yukie, Okutomi and Kaufeld do not supply the subject matter missing in Eguchi. Therefore, Eguchi, individually or in any combination with Najafi, Yukie, Okutomi or Kaufeld, does not teach, disclose or suggest the subject matter recited in claims 13, 19 and 25.

Claims 14-18, 20-24 and 26 variously dependent from claims 13, 19 and 25. Because the applied references, in any combination, fail to render the subject matter of independent claims 13, 19 and 25 obvious, dependent claims 14-18, 20-24 and 26 are patentable for at least the reasons that claims 13, 19 and 25 are patentable, as well as for the additional features they recite.

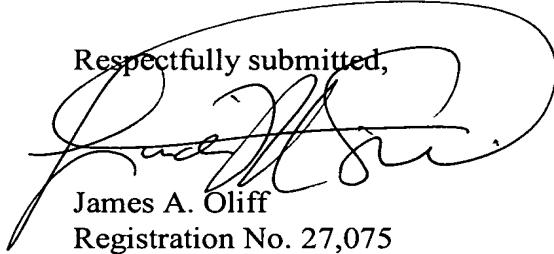
Accordingly, allowance of the new claims is respectfully requested.

V. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,


James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Linda M. Saltiel
Registration No. 51,122

JAO:AAT/ccs

Date: January 7, 2008

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 320850
Alexandria, Virginia 22320-4850
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

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